



DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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Haiti Earthquake Prompts Tech Aid

The devastating earthquake that hit the Caribbean nation of Haiti on January 12 was a huge tragedy for the country's people and for the large international aid community, including the United Nations. But the disaster has seen the use of new information technologies – often assembled by volunteers – to bridge the gaps in critical information and bring a semblance of order to the chaos of a large disaster. And many of the technologies being used in Haiti now arose from past disasters and crises in the South.

Remarkable stories from the disaster include a woman who used her mobile phone to text message Canadian officials she was trapped and needed rescue, to a filmmaker who used an application on his iPhone (<http://www.apple.com/iphone/>) to treat his wounds: "I was able to look up treatment of excessive bleeding and compound fracture, so I used my shirt to tie my leg and a sock on the back of my head and later used it for other things like to diagnose shock," claimed Dan Woolley to NBC Miami.

Measuring 7.0 in magnitude (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake), the quake killed over 212,000 people, injured 300,000 and affected more than 3 million out of Haiti's population of 9 million. Hundreds of thousands have lost their homes and are now dependent on food aid to survive. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and is ranked 149th of 182 countries on the Human Development Index.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, communications were knocked out and it was difficult to grasp the scale of the disaster. Major infrastructure was either severely damaged or completely destroyed.

The public telephone system went down, and the two largest cell phone providers, Digicel and Comcel Haiti, were both disrupted. Most radio stations went off the air in the immediate aftermath and a week later, just 20 of the 50 stations in Port-au-Prince were back on air.

This represented the worst of all scenarios for disaster response: not only was the scale of the tragedy

In this issue:

- [Haiti Earthquake Prompts Tech Aid](#)
- [Housing Solution for World's Growing Urban Population](#)
- [Enormous Potential for Nigerian Software Industry](#)
- [Indian Solar Power Pack Powers Villages](#)

Featured Links

- [Babajob.com](#)
- [Equator Initiative](#)
- [Kiva.org](#)
- [SSC Website](#)
- [FUNDING](#)

Quick Links

- [Window on the World](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Training Opportunities](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [Past Issues](#)

Bookmark With



[What are these?](#)

enormous, but existing government structures and the large international aid mission were equally badly hit. First responders and the government's infrastructure were paralyzed in the hours after the disaster and it took some time for the aid response to build to significant levels.

But while communications were down in the country, outside it was a different story: people around the world were using the internet and mobile phones to begin piecing together the e-response to the earthquake.

After the disaster, technology-savvy volunteers around the world kicked into action to find ways to help. They have built software to aid in tracking people, using technology to map the disaster area and ways to use mobile phone text messages to find the missing.

Kenya's Ushahidi (www.ushahidi.com) is a free software mashup (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mashup_%28web_application_hybrid%29) born after the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008. It gathers citizen-generated crisis information – SMS (text messages), email or web resources – and then places the information on a map or timeline. It is put together by volunteers from Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Malawi, the Netherlands and the United States.

Ushahidi's founder is Kenyan Ory Okolloh, and the first version of the software for download is called "Mogadishu," after the capital of Somalia.

It was put to use in Haiti (<http://haiti.ushahidi.com/reports/submit>) as users populated its online maps and timelines with information on the location of people in need of food and water, those trapped in rubble or those in need of medical attention. It is a real-time reporting system for people in a disaster, offering a way for people in need to broadcast to the outside world.

Sample reports on the timeline look like this (<http://haiti.ushahidi.com/reports>): " SOS food, water and care needed in the Bertin Zone of Carrefour S.O.S. for the people of Carefour in the Bertin area, Titus Road, Froide River, these people haven't recieved anything yet like water, food, care."

"Alive under the Rubble of Bar Lakay Restaurant, Ave. Christophe 6633. Carole Joseph is alive under the rubble of the Bar Lakay restaurant on Avenue Christophe."

The UN estimates there are more than 900 non-governmental organizations operating in Haiti. One of the best ways to try and coordinate this large aid response is through innovative information technology.

The Ushahidi software has spawned many creative variations to track a wide range of problems. In the Philippines, TXTpower (<http://www.cp-union.com>

/ushahidi/) is put together by the Computer Professionals' Union to keep an eye on mobile phone companies and their business practices. In Mexico, a mashup (<http://www.cuidemoselvoto.org/>) was put together for the 2009 federal elections. Stop Stockouts (<http://stopstockouts.org/>) keeps track of near real-time pharmacy and medical supplies in health facilities and pharmacies in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Zambia.

In San Diego, California, computer programmer Tim Schwartz quickly contacted his network of fellow programmers to address the problem of information being spread too widely across many web sources. In a few hours they put together www.haitianquake.com, a way for people to post and locate missing relatives.

It was online in less than 24 hours. It was followed by many other similar services and they were merged into a service eventually put together by Google called PersonFinder two days later. Google's PersonFinder grew to have more than 32,000 missing people listed.

Another response has been Crisis Camps (<http://crisiscampmiami.org/>) in London England and cities across the United States. Technology workers got together to brainstorm relevant solutions to help the aid effort, and developed tools including Tweak the Tweet, Port Au Prince Basemap (up-to-date data on what his happening on the ground), The Haiti Timeline (developing a real-time history of events as they unfold), Family Reunification Systems, crisis wikis (http://crisiscommons.org/wiki/index.php?title=Crisis_Wiki), Mobile Applications 4 Crisis Response, translation (Creole to English for example), Mapping NGOs in Action (in the chaos of a crisis, this seeks to track what NGOs are working where), We Need, We Have Exchange (a way to post requests for resources or help).

"It really is amazing the change in the way crisis response can be done now," Noel Dickover, a Washington, DC-based organiser of the Crisis Camp tech volunteer movement, told The Independent newspaper.

"Developers, crisis mappers and even internet-savvy folks can actually make a difference."

Josh Nesbit is a co-creator of a text message service for mobile phones that is being used by international organizations like the United Nations and the Red Cross. Haitians are able to send free text messages from mobile phones on the country's Digicel service. The messages include requests for water and food. The messages are organized and tagged with key words by volunteers in the Haitian community in New York City, and Haitian radio stations promote the service. It was developed based on similar systems already running in hospitals in Malawi.

In Haiti, mobile phone networks were back up and running within a few days – many within 24 hours. Haiti is poor, but it nonetheless has impressive mobile phone ownership rates: one-in-three people has one.

OpenStreetMap (<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>) is another excellent resource in a disaster and represents a significant step forward in helping people to respond. Real time data is uploaded to satellite photographs of the disaster area and people then can add updates on the location of working hospitals or where infrastructure has been damaged. The information comes in by many forms, from the micro-blogging service Twitter (www.twitter.com) to eyewitness reports.

Reports from Haiti have talked of rescue teams uploading the maps to their GPS (global positioning system) devices for easy access, or printing them in A4 form to carry around.

The utility of this service has been confirmed by many working on helping Haiti. "We have already been using their data in our initial post-disaster needs assessment," Stuart Gill of the World Bank told The Independent.

Dutch mobile phone maker Intivation (<http://www.intivation.nl/>) is distributing for free solar-powered mobile phones in Haiti to help with aid efforts and is launching the phones for sale around the world as well.

Links

- SMS activism: A blog report on how people are using SMS text messaging in the developing world.
Website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/feb/02/mobile-phone-sms-uprising>
- The Magazine Popular Mechanics has excellent resources on how anyone can prepare their family and community for disasters.
Website: <http://www.popularmechanics.com/survival/>
- The US Government has extensive resources online on how to prepare for a wide variety of natural and man-made disasters.
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>
- UNICEF: Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Projects (CBDPs) in India have been helping communities restructure to survive when disaster strikes.
Website: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/campaigns>
- How to activate support from the global technology community in a disaster.
Website: <http://crisiscommons.org/>
- International Community on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management: They will be having

their conference on Defining Crisis Management 3.0 from May 2-5, 2010 in Seattle Washington USA.

Website: <http://www.iscram.org/>

- Telecoms Sans Frontiers: Focuses on providing communications in the first days after an emergency.
Website: <http://www.tsfi.org/>
- InSTEDD NGO: InSTEDD's mission is to harness the power of technology to improve collaboration for global health and humanitarian action. An innovation lab for tools designed to strengthen networks, build community resilience and improve early detection and response to major health-related events and natural or human-caused disasters.
Website: <http://instedd.org/>
- Web mash-ups: Programmable Web website offers all the resources required to get started.
Website: www.programmableweb.com/

Housing Solution for World's Growing Urban Population

Across the South, cities are expanding and urban populations growing at a phenomenal rate -- the cities of Africa and Asia are growing by a million people a week. Megacities and sprawling slums will be the hallmarks of this majority urban world. In sub-Saharan Africa, 72 percent of the population already lives in slum conditions.

How people will be housed is an urgent problem. There are many ways to build a dwelling, from scavenged materials, to labour-intensive and expensive custom-built construction, yet affordable and safe construction techniques for the poor are sorely needed.

The danger of building unsafe housing can be seen in the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, where many buildings collapsed, killing an estimated 212,000 people. If the rapid growth in urban populations is to be safe and sustainable, then new dwellings will need to be built that meet high standards of durability.

In South Africa, one company believes it has the right technology for an age of rapid urban population growth and the need for quick and safe housing construction.

The Moladi building system (<http://moladi.com/>) (<http://www.moladi.net/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>) developed in 1986 by South African injection mold maker Hennie Botes consists of molded plastic panels, looking like the panels found in children's construction toys that are screwed together and assembled as a frame for the building. With the frame in place, a concrete mortar mix is poured in and left to dry: depending on local conditions, taking between 12 and 15 hours. When dry, the plastic mold is removed and a fully built house is the result. Because of the use of molds, the home's walls are smooth and even and the resulting home is tidy to look at.

Moladi doesn't require professional builders to assemble the frames, and the technique has been tested for strength and for resistance to earthquakes and hurricanes. Since it was developed specifically for the poor, this building method draws on what is called 'sweat equity': often the only asset a poor person has to contribute to the cost of building a home is their free labour.

Because the dimensions of the home have already been established when the plastic

frames were molded, common on-site mistakes are avoided.

Moladi benefits from South Africa's Black Economic Empowerment programme (<http://www.southafrica.info/business/trends/empowerment/bee.htm>) and is certified for its quality with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) (<https://www.sabs.co.za/>). Moladi contractors and developers are working in 15 countries and the technique is distributed in a further seven countries.

The Moladi construction technique was born of frustration with the traditional approach of laying one brick on top of another. This traditional construction method, dating back thousands of years, just doesn't match the needs of our times. It is slow and requires highly skilled bricklayers to be done right. Across the developing world, it is possible to see poorly constructed brick dwellings – often built unevenly with poor quality mortar holding the bricks together - that are unsafe in an earthquake.

Training in the Moladi technique takes from one to two weeks for unskilled workers depending on the size of the home. Moladi provides handbooks and all the necessary resources to complete the project. Each project has its own custom-built plastic frames made based on the home's design.

"There is no flat fee for on-site training; the client is only responsible for covering the travel and living expenses for the Moladi representative or training foreman," said Hennie Botes.

The ideal size for a project is 15 homes. By building a large number of homes, the individual cost comes down and savings increase.

The system "can be reused 50 times, which means that the more Moladi houses you build, the more economical it becomes," Botes said. "Compared with the exorbitant cost of traditional construction methods and when current market values are considered, the cost savings of building with the Moladi technology are achieved from the first application."

As the world's cities grow, and slums become larger and more prevalent, the urgent need for affordable and decent housing will go hand-in-hand with a need for jobs -- particularly jobs for unskilled workers. There just won't be enough skilled workers to go around to build the homes. Even in developed countries, this has become a problem.

"The recent earthquake disaster in Haiti could benefit from the Moladi system," Botes said. "Job creation for Haitians is desperately needed and Moladi can immediately facilitate an income for family groups, as over 95 percent of the construction team consists of unskilled labourers. There is no requirement for heavy machinery, or even electricity, and remote areas can be easily accessed; Moladi also allows for the utilisation of building rubble resulting from the earthquake in the construction of new buildings."

The essence of the Moladi system is breaking down the construction process into simple, replicable steps. It is inspired by the American pioneer of mass production, car maker Henry Ford (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Ford), who achieved efficiency and low costs in production by simplifying production into standardized and modulated steps.

"The Moladi construction process should be viewed as a workflow process similar to that of a vehicle assembly line," Botes said. "Through the simplification, standardization, modularization, and industrialization of the construction process, efficiency and cost savings are achieved and maintained by managing the continuous flow process on site.

"Contractors must make sure that they have planned their project roll-out and budget well and have clearly defined goals as to what they want to achieve. It is very important to have all team players and professionals on the same page with regards to their roles and responsibilities."

In the beginning, Botes encountered resistance to his innovative production methods. "I

was highly motivated and really believed in my idea, but when I presented it to investors, they'd shoot holes in it. ... It's been a 22-year journey, but I always kept the goal in mind. Moses spent 40 years in the desert ... I'm quite happy my desert experience was only 20-odd years, though," he told Men's Health magazine.

South Africa is facing a population growth rate of 1.73 percent a year (UNICEF). It also has 61 percent of the urban population trying to live on four percent of the land, according to Botes. This urban population grows at 2.7 percent a year, yet existing housing needs are not being met. There is already a backlog of 2.2 million homes needed to be built, and this grows by 180,000 every year, according to the Banking Association of South Africa (<http://www.banking.org.za/default.aspx>).

"Even though the need for housing has always been a fundamental requirement to sustain one's health and welfare, the advances in this area have been seriously lacking," said Botes. "The brick and mortar method of construction was recorded as early as 1458 B.C, which means that very little has changed in terms of building structures over a period of almost 3.5 millennia.

"We cannot expect to resolve the housing crisis in our age with a technique developed for the requirements of society 3468 years ago."

With the success of the Moladi building system, Hennie is working on "producing windows, doors, toilet seats, window frames, sinks and washbasins. If I can include these as part of my product, I'll reduce the total unit cost of the house."

Links

- Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things: This radical concept is about how products, can be used, recycled, and used again without losing any material quality—in cradle to cradle cycles.
Website: http://www.mcdonough.com/cradle_to_cradle.htm
- Builders Without Borders: Is an international network of ecological builders who advocate the use of straw, earth and other local, affordable materials in construction.
Website: <http://builderswithoutborders.org/>
- World Hands Project: An NGO specialising in simple building techniques for the poor.
Website: www.worldhandsproject.org
- CIDEM and Ecosur specialise in building low-cost community housing using eco-materials. They have projects around the world and are based in Cuba.
Website: www.ecosur.org
- The Rural Development Institute focuses on land rights for the poor and has a series of articles on China's land reforms.
Website: www.rdiland.org
- More Urban, Less Poor: The first textbook to explore urban development and management and challenge the notion unplanned shanty towns without basic services are the inevitable consequence of urbanization.
Website: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/>
- Building and Social Housing Foundation: The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.
Website: <http://www.bshf.org/>

Enormous Potential for Nigerian Software Industry

Nigeria has an unfortunate global reputation as the home of 419 scams (http://en..wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance-fee_fraud). A typical 419 scam involves sending emails to people around the world in order to extort money from them. Online scams may show an unexpected technical sophistication for a country associated with poverty, but are a sign that some of Nigeria's plentiful talents are being turned to illegal activities rather than building legitimate businesses.

Many argue that Nigeria is missing its potential to become an African legal software powerhouse. The Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria said the country's annual consumption of software reached US \$900 million in 2006, making it possibly Africa's biggest market.

"Nigeria stands a good chance of dominating both the local and West African diaspora in a thriving global software market," it argues.

Production of computer software is a major income earner for countries like the United States and India.

Many argue that Nigeria has enormous potential, if it can address some common problems: an absence of software quality assurance, poor investment in software development, poor product standards and a lack of proper documentation. In short: if Nigeria's software industry takes on board global best practice, then it is sitting on a goldmine of legitimate business opportunities.

Chris Uwaje, president of the Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON), told Business Day that the country's software technology, if well retooled and strategically positioned for global competitiveness, could earn about US \$10 billion annually from foreign software exchange.

He argued that developing the software industry would have many benefits for the population as a whole.

"Software has ... become and will remain one of the fastest growing industries with power to enrich, and sustain national economies," Uwaje said.

Some estimates put the world software industry and associated markets at US \$1,300 billion, with 90 percent of the world's software exports coming from the United States and Europe. Outside the U.S., U.K., Germany and Japan, the new and emerging countries within the software industry are India and China, and to a lesser extent Singapore and Malaysia.

According to market researcher DataMonitor, the worldwide software industry grew by 6.5 percent between 2007 and 2008.

DataMonitor forecasts that in 2013, the global software market alone will have a value of US \$ 457 billion, an increase of 50.5 percent since 2008 (Datamonitor's Software: Global Industry Guide).

Africa has a high proportion of entrepreneurs because people have next to no social supports to fall back on and need to do business to survive. Nigeria's large youth population – 43.2 percent of the total – could be the driver of this new economy if used right.

Nigeria mostly imports software solutions despite having an extensive capacity in software development. If developed well, software could surpass oil as a revenue generator for the country.

According to A Profile of Nigeria's Software Industry by H. Abimbola Soriyan and Richard Heeks, "A typical software company (in Nigeria) had between 11 and 50 customers (the average was 36 though a few firms involved with package installation had several thousand). There was a strong concentration among these customers. Almost all were private sector ... There was a surprising lack of government/public sector organizations as customers (reflected above in the limited number of firms found in Abuja)."

Jimson Olufuye, president of the Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN), believes that more needs to be done to support the software developers. And while on paper there is strong support for this sector in information technology policy, "In addition, we need to establish more IT parks with appropriate policies on infrastructure, human resources, incentives and business plan."

Wahab Sarumi, chief executive officer of Wadof Software Consulting, explains the problem: "Indigenous software developers are an endangered species, abandoned by the government, neglected by its own people and bullied by the poachers from India, to whom Nigerian businesses rush to buy software applications to solve local business problems."

Already, Nigerian software firms are offering existing off-the-shelf software that they custom package with local services. This recognizes software made in advanced countries isn't entirely right for developing countries: and this is where business opportunities await for software developers.

But the key to success, at the end of the day, is to be the best solution on offer for the right price. James Agada, managing director of ExpertEdge Limited, believes people buy the best software for the task and don't care where it comes from.

"If you want to sell software, the buyer does not buy the software alone, he buys the software, buys capacity to support the software, buys your capacity to improve on the software, he buys what he assumes is your mastery of the domain the software ... the software must be able to compete favourably with its competitors."

Links

- West Africa Trade Hub: A great resource for doing business in West Africa .
Website: http://www.watradehub.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1439
- Rogue Economics: A website accompanying the book by Loretta Napoleoni on the illegal economic activities unleashed after the fall of communism.
Website: <http://www.lorettanapoleoni.com/>
- Towards an African E-Index: SMS e-Access and Usage Across 14 African Countries: A report from 2006 showing how small and medium African businesses increase income with ICTs.
Website: <http://mobileactive.org/research/towards-african-e-index-sms-e-access-and-usage-across-14-african-countries>
- Changing Dynamics of Global Computer Software and Services Industry: Implications for Developing Countries: A report from UNCTAD on how computer software can become the most internationally dispersed high-tech industry.
Website: <http://www.unctad.org/templates/webflyer.asp?docid=1913&intitemid=2529&lang=1>

- A Profile of Nigeria's Software Industry by H. Abimbola Soriyan and Richard Heeks, Paper No 21, 2004, Development Informatics: Working Paper Series.
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/yh25dpa>
- Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria: A great contact point for finding legitimate software developers in Nigeria.
Website: <http://www.ispon.org/>
- Tech Soup: A great place to meet legitimate software developers and learn more.
Website: <http://home.techsoup.org/pages/default.aspx>

Indian Solar Power Pack Powers Villages

Developments in India are showing the way forward for low-cost solar power for the poor. The Duron Solar Home Power System (http://www.duronenergy.com/product_info/) is now enabling the rural poor to generate and store solar electricity. It is powerful enough to charge gadgets and appliances and run LED lights. It allows people to do their household chores into the dark hours and to study or earn extra income.

As the company says, it "allows ample light for cooking, for children to study at night, and for shop owners to stay open later to earn more money."

The system removes the need for polluting and dangerous kerosene lamps, which are used by an estimated one million families for lighting in India.

Kerosene lamps are a major contributor to indoor air pollution, which itself claims the lives of 1.5 million people each year. Kerosene lamps have also caused countless deaths by suffocation, burns and fatal fires.

The United Nations Environment Program says kerosene fumes are responsible for around 64 percent of deaths for children under the age of five in developing countries.

More than 1.7 billion people around the world have no domestic electricity supply, of whom more than 500 million live in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank). Some 400 million people in India do not have access to electricity, according to the World Bank, and 600,000 villages lack an electrical supply. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has pledged "power for all" by 2012. Without electricity, many development goals remain dreams that will never be achieved.

Being able to see at night unleashes a vast range of possibilities, but for the very poor lighting is often the most expensive household expense, soaking up 10 to 15 percent of income.

According to Greenpeace (<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/>), India could generate 10 percent of its electricity from solar power by 2030.

The Duron package comes with a five watt solar panel, a cell phone charger connection, three LED (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LED_lamp) lights, and an AC grid charger. After a day of charging, the Duron can power three hours of bright lighting or 10 hours of dim lighting.

The Duron system sells for about 5,999 rupees, or around US \$130, and the typical user to date has been small businesses and schools.

Duron is selling several thousand units a month and the company is currently scaling up its sales efforts.

Duron's approach is to provide a market solution to the huge problem of providing

electricity to India's rural poor.

The company was launched in 2008 with the goal of providing electricity to those without around the world. It was developed out of the Idea Lab (<http://www.idealab.com/>), a Pasadena, Californian incubator of technology companies.

Extensive field research was conducted across India to determine what was the best solution and what were the needs of rural dwellers. Duron moved its headquarters to Bangalore, India in 2009 to be closer to its customers and expand sales. The company operates in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

By August 2009, more than 2,100 people had light because of the Duron system. The company calculates this translated into 172,500 hours of light.

One customer, Anil Singh, lives with his family in the unelectrified village of Narainpur. His family used kerosene lamps and was paying US \$4 a day for unreliable lighting. But after seeing his neighbour, Santosh Singh, with bright, powerful lights at his home, he was curious as to why. When he found out about Duron's system, he installed a system to light his front porch and two rooms in his house. His family now enjoys two-and-half hours of reliable light in the evening to do things.

"The Duron has made my life so much easier," said Anil. "It's a much cheaper (lighting) option compared to kerosene lamps, and I now have a reliable source of power on a daily basis," he told the company's website.

Another innovative start-up with offices in India and Africa, is the d.light company, which also has a new, highly-efficient solar-powered product available. The Kiran LED lamp (http://www.dlightdesign.com/products_kiran_global.php) stays lit for eight hours on a full battery and is four times brighter than a kerosene lamp. It illuminates 360 degrees and produces an even, bright white light.

Links

- Lighting Africa: this website run by the World Bank is a virtual business community and has forums, market intelligence, access to grants, network and partnership opportunities.
Website: <http://lightingafrica.org/index.cfm?Page=Home>
- D.light Design is dedicated to bringing modern lighting and power to more than 1.6 billion people globally currently living without electricity. They aim to be the number one player in off-grid lighting and power solutions worldwide.
Website: <http://www.dlightdesign.com/>
- Solar Power Answers is a one-stop-shop for everything to do with solar power. It has a design manual and guides to the complex world of solar power equipment.
Website: <http://www.solar-power-answers.co.uk/index.php>
- Sun King solar lantern: The lantern provides 16 hours of light for a day's charge.
Website: <http://www.greenlightplanet.com/ourusers.html>

Window on the World

War Games: The Story of War and Aid in Modern Times

• by Linda Polman, Publisher: Penguin

Website: www.amazon.com

State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability

by Erik Assadourian and Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010

Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/>

Design Revolution: 100 Products that Empower People

by Emily Pilloton, Publisher: Metropolis

Pilloton is founder of the non-profit Project H Design, where chapters of designers around the world collaborate on products that improve the four H's: habitats, humanity, health and happiness. It features 115 solutions that range from high-tech prototypes from industrial design firms to DIY hacks that originated in the developing world.

Website: www.amazon.com

Two Dragon Heads: Contrasting Development Paths for Beijing and Shanghai

by Shahid Yusuf and Kaoru Nabeshima, Publisher: World Bank

Website: http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,3343,en_2649_34665_4283506437413,00.html

The Blue Sweater

by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund

Website: <http://support.acumenfund.org/site/R?i=ObjEPDeDep0503kXJ-4IjA>

South-South: Interruptions & Encounters

ed. by Tejpal S. Ajji and Jon Soske, Publisher: Justina M. Barnicke

Gallery in collaboration with the South Asian Visual Arts Centre. Catalogue contains six commissioned essays by writers, artists, and academics addressing the possibilities and limitations of a "South-South" framework situated at the intersection of African and South Asian history, politics, and culture.

Website: <http://www.jmbgallery.ca/exhibitions.html>

Global Economic Prospects 2010

Publisher: World Bank

It anticipates the global recovery slowing later in 2010 because of the withdrawal of stimulus packages by governments.

Website: <http://web.worldbank.org>

Vision 2050: The new agenda for business

The report "lays out the challenges, pathway and options that business can use to create an opportunity-rich strategy, both regionally and globally, that will lead to a sustainable world," said Dr. Mohammad A. Zaidi, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Alcoa, who led the project as one of four co-chairs. Vision 2050: The new agenda for business - full report

Website: <http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=MzczOTg>

Vision 2050: The new agenda for business - summary report

Website: <http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=MzcOMDA>

SMS Uprising: Mobile Activism in Africa

edited by Sokari Ekine, Publisher: Fahamu Books

Website: <http://fahamubooks.org/book/?GCOI=90638100577370>

2009 State of the Future

by Jerome C. Glenn, Theodore J. Gordon, and Elizabeth Florescu, Publisher: Millennium Project.

"Invaluable insights into the future for the United Nations, its Member States, and civil society." Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General.

Website: www.millennium-project.org

Global Warring: How Environmental, Economic and Political Crises will Redraw the World Map

by Cleo Paskal, Publisher: Palgrave MacMillan

Website: www.palgrave-usa.com

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Global Employment Trends 2010

Publisher: ILO

The number of jobless worldwide reached nearly 212 million in 2009 following an unprecedented increase of 34 million compared to 2007, on the eve of the global crisis, the International Labour Office (ILO) said in its annual Global Employment Trends report.

Website: <http://www.ilo.org/>

One Billion Rising: Law, Land and the Alleviation of Global Poverty

Edited by Roy L. Posterman, Robert Mitchell, Tim Hanstad, Publisher: RDI

How secure land rights can build a better, safer world.

Website: <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article15543.html>

The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa

by Deborah Brautigam, Publisher: Oxford University Press

A timely, unprecedented analysis of China's aid programs in Africa – what they're doing, how they do it, and why.

Website: www.oup.com/us

The Aid Trap: Hard Truths About Ending Poverty

by R. Glenn Hubbard and William Duggan, Publisher: Columbia Business School Publishing

The authors have a strong thesis: the best way to reduce poverty around the world is by fostering private business.

Website: www.amazon.com

Rogue Economics

by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press

Website: www.amazon.com

Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World

by Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, Publisher: Oxford University Press

Website: www.oup.com/us

Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme

The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development

Website: www.unp.un.org

China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

Website: www.amazon.com

When China Rules the World

by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics

Website: www.piie.com

Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash

by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project

Website: www.amazon.com

Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone

by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press

Website: www.sup.org

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

by Nicholas D. Kirstof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf

Website: www.amazon.com

Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape the 21st Century

by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP

Website: www.utpublishing.com

Top African Banker Defends Investment from China

by Anne Seith, Publisher: Spiegel Online

Website: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,674887,00.html#ref=nlint>

Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis

by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, *Journal of Globalization and Development*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16

Website: <http://www.afdb.org>

Upcoming Events

February

Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email event@clear-profit.com

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html>

After Copenhagen: How can business face the climate change challenge?

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Attend the Sustainability Summit-After Copenhagen: How can business face the climate change challenge? Hear and be inspired by cutting-edge thinkers on climate change-the visionaries, scientists and policymakers. Be at the launch of an exclusive EIU report "After Copenhagen-Assessing the impact on business".

Website: <http://www.economistconferences.co.uk/event/third-annual-sustainability-summit/176>

March

Methane to Markets Partnership Expo: A Forum for Projects, Technology, Financing and Policy – 2010

New Delhi, India (2-5 March 2010)

The Methane to Markets Partnership Expo is the premier international forum for promoting

methane recovery and use project opportunities and technologies. India has methane capture-and-use projects in agriculture, coal mines, landfills, and the oil and gas sector - and with rapid growth, increased urbanization, and rising energy consumption, opportunities in these four Methane to Markets sectors are quickly expanding.

Website: <http://www.methanetomarkets.org/expo/index.htm>

Carbon Market Insights 2010

Amsterdam, Netherlands (2-4 March 2010)

The Carbon Market Insights conference, in its 7th year, attracts a constituency central to the climate change struggle: the vanguard of emitters, investors and emissions traders, who will test-drive the new mechanisms and install the next generation of technology, given the right signals.

Website: <http://www.pointcarbon.com/events/conferences/cmi2010/>

World Biofuels Markets 2010

Amsterdam, Netherlands (15-17 March 2010)

World Biofuels Markets is the leading industry networking event where, each year, the leaders of the biofuels world convene to meet new customers, suppliers and partners and help drive innovation and business.

Website: www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com

Clean Technology World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (15-18 March 2010)

Clean Technology World Africa 2010 will help you to: Identify new sources of efficient energy supply - Promote new sources of efficient and sustainable energy supply - Source new funding for investment in clean technology.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/cleantechza/index.stm>

World Urban Forum 5

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22-26 March 2010)

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Website: <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

15th African International Water Congress and Exhibition

Kampala, Uganda (15-18 March 2010)

AfWA is a network of more than 80 water utilities from over 35 African countries. This time around, AfWA has chosen to extend the scope of participation to take advantage of the global expertise and will hold an International Water Congress focusing on the theme? Water and Sanitation: What Perspectives relating to Energy Challenges and Climate Change?

Website: <http://aae-event.com/en/index.htm>

Energy Efficiency World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (16-17 March 2010)

This event is the place where the large power users, producers and players meet, it's where efficient solutions are found and learning is done. Reduce energy costs immediately and significantly, evaluate different technologies and innovations, source carbon reducing solutions for your business, learn about new and effective DSM initiatives and understand the latest in regulation.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/eeza>

World Renewable Energy Technology Congress and Expo 2010

New Delhi, India (18-20 March 2010)

The Congress & Expo attempts to supplement the efforts of the government by providing a platform to showcase opportunities in the Indian market for global players. It aims to

Provide an opportunity and open forum to exchange information, share experiences and best practices by bringing together experts, investors and other multi stake holders of Public and Private sector, advisory groups, governments, NGOs, non-profit organizations, environmentalists and academia Provide a comprehensive analysis of problems and prospects of renewable energy sources, Provide in-depth assessment of regulatory framework, Provide an International window to showcase Indian expertise and capabilities, Promote Global co-operation in business and technology, Provide an opportunity for interaction and networking, Find ways for optimal use of World's energy resources for the benefit of mankind, Identify new areas for future co-operation and technology transfer.

Website: <http://www.wretc.in/>

World Water Day 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (22 March 2010)

Every year, 1,500 cubic kilometres of wastewater are produced globally. While waste and wastewater can be reused productively for energy and irrigation, it usually is not. In developing countries 80 percent of all waste is being discharged untreated, because of lack of regulations and resources. And population and industrial growth add new sources of pollution and increased demand for clean water to the equation. Human and environmental health, drinking and agricultural water supplies for the present and future are at stake, still water pollution rarely warrants mention as a pressing issue. To do something about that, UN-Water has chosen Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities as theme for World Water Day 2010. The overall goal of the World Water Day on 22 March 2010 campaign is to raise the profile of water quality at the political level so that water quality considerations are made alongside those of water quantity.

Website: www.worldwaterday.org

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Website: <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

Globe 2010

Vancouver, BC, Canada (24-26 March 2010)

This series of events is dedicated to bringing together professionals from the environment sector. Every two years, corporate executives, government representatives, environmental senior managers, urban planners and financial executives meet to discuss emerging priorities and opportunities in the business of the environment. GLOBE 2010 will host 12,000 participants, 2,200 conference delegates, 500 exhibitors, 200 speakers and dozens of international delegations from over 70 countries. The Conference will focus on major themes such as Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy, Finance and Sustainability, Building Better Cities, and the Future of the Automotive Industry.

Website: www.globe2010.com

2nd China Microfinance Investor Conference

Beijing, China (25-26 March 2010)

For 2010, GTZ and PBC will be collaborating with WMFG for a 2nd China Microfinance Investor Conference. The conference will bring together international and Chinese investors with local providers of inclusive financial services, regulators and other stakeholders in the industry. With the recent establishment of hundreds of new MicroCredit Companies, participants are bound to have extensive food for talk!

Website: <http://www.microfinanceforum.org/>

April

IAIA10: Transitioning to the Green Economy

Geneva, Switzerland (6-10 April 2010)

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises. IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment.

Website: <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx>

3rd Annual Carbon Trade China 2010*Beijing, China (15-16 April 2010)*

Carbon Trade came out in response to the Kyoto Protocol, Signed in Kyoto, Japan, by 180 countries in December 1997, effective from 2005 and run out in 2012. During the last three years, 1899 registered CDM projects has been producing 352,218,246 ton issuance CERs. To keep the process on the line, there is an urgent need for a new climate protocol. Under this urgency, the COP15 is the last time for the parties of UNFCCC to meet on a government level before the Kyoto Protocol is renewed.

Website: <http://www.chinacarbontrade.com.cn/>

MIT Sustainability Summit 2010*Cambridge, USA (23 April 2010)*

All the technology and great ideas in the world cannot achieve sustainability by themselves. This summit focuses on the communication and collaboration necessary to make sustainability a reality. Attendees will learn and practice innovative methods for creating effective dialogue and working together during complex decision-making situations and multi-stakeholder engagements. The conference welcomes all attendees interested in sustainability, including but not limited to students, engineers, business leaders, non-profit leaders, academics, environmental activists, and public servants.

Website: <http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>

May**Expo 2010 Shanghai China***Shanghai, China (1 May to 31 October 2010)*

UN-HABITAT AND the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global South Creative Economy exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

The Global South Creative Economy exhibition will depict how the creative economy is an engine for better livable cities with better lifestyles for all in alignment with the Shanghai World Expo 2010 theme: Better City, Better Life. Whenever these goals are achieved, people are at centre stage and involved in activities that use creativity as a main resource. The creative economy can be an important driver for economic growth and the agenda, represented at this exhibition, takes a broader view, asserting that long-term sustainable development can be achieved by effectively utilising creative assets.

Website: <http://en.expo2010.cn/>

2010 Energy Efficiency Global Forum and Exposition*Washington DC, USA (10-12 May 2010)*

Launched in 2007, EE Global is the only international event that focuses solely on energy efficiency from the perspective of all energy end-use sectors (buildings, industrial and transportation) and with coverage of all cross-cutting issues – finance, policy, technology and market transformation. Hosted by the Alliance to Save Energy, EE Global attracts executive-level leaders from all end-use sectors who are committed to putting energy efficiency to work in their businesses, communities and markets.

Website: http://ase.org/section/_audience/events1/eeglobal

Solar Maghreb – Developing Large-scale North African Solar Markets*Algiers, Algeria (11-12 May 2010)*

This event will bring together key players from the region – with particular focus on Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania – with global industry experts. The Maghreb region contains vast solar energy resources and the exploitation of these will be a critical factor in helping accelerate the region's economic development. The Maghreb countries have realized that tremendous opportunities exist and are beginning to diversify their energy markets away from an over reliance on oil and gas.

Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk>

Bioenergy Markets Africa 2010

Maputo, Mozambique (11-13 May 2010)

The event offers an integrated solution of brand positioning, business development and face-to-face networking opportunities with senior decision makers. Sustainable bioenergy remains a key part of the global energy solution and East & Southern Africa represents a nascent marketplace. The growing demand for biofuels has sparked a green revolution in Africa and a frenzy of biofuel crop planting and investment. Despite these opportunities there are still several challenges that remain before the region can fully benefit: Food vs. fuel – bioenergy needs to be produced in a sustainable manner, water availability – management of this resource is key, land tenure – developing best practice to balance the needs of investors with small farmers, scale of production – incorporating cooperative models, lack of infrastructure – investments are required to expand production. Knowledge base – new information systems with timely data on potential, water availability and agronomic techniques, life cycle analysis – applications must ensure GHG reductions, Policy - the need for a clear guidelines and incentives.

Website: Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk>

Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

Website: www.challengebibendum.com

June

Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

Website: www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

Website: www.oceancouncil.org

September

World Water Week 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

October

Asia Microfinance Forum 2010

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

Website: <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

November

Water Investment World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

December

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

Website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

Website: <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

Website: <http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946>

African Economic Outlook

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009

Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQT>

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities**Ongoing**

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers

to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspovetry.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest collectively our world

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the worlds five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting

impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

Website: www.scidev.net

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the world's first global youth development competition.

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs.

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Funding


UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to

organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.


Website: www.unesco.org

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns  and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.


Website: www.google.org

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world  s inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University  s Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children !\[\]\(569ff5d1aa9137b5defb690d1175fea6_img.jpg\) s Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation